

JOEL J. OROSZ
4300 OLD FIELD TRAIL
KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN 49008

April 5, 1996

Mr. Eric P. Neuman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Eric,

It has been quite some time since our paths last crossed. I trust you are doing well, and add my congratulations on the upcoming black tie gala at the ANS to honor your many contributions to that organization. Truly, no one deserves such an honor more than you.

I am writing because I stumbled across a book yesterday that may be of some interest to you. While doing some research on an unrelated subject, I happened upon a two-volume set by W. S. W. Ruschenberger, M.D., entitled Narrative of a Voyage Round the World During the Years 1835, 36, and 37; Including A Narrative of An Embassy to the Sultan of Muscat and the King of Siam. The set was first published in England in 1838, and reprinted in London by Dawson's of Pall Mall in 1970. Dr. Ruschenberger was the surgeon to the expedition.

I cannot find reference to the book in The Fantastic 1804 Dollar, although it is certainly possible that you and/or Ken Bressett have seen it since your book was published. Dr. Ruschenberger is an excellent writer, but he reveals nothing new about the numismatic diplomatic gifts, except that he does confirm delivery of the coin sets. You have noted on page 65 of your book, that Roberts' memorandum book records delivery of one set to the Sultan of Muscat on October 1, 1835 and one set to the King of Siam on April 5, 1836. On p. 151 of volume 1, Ruschenberger

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describes the gifts given the Sultan including "a set of American coins." The date he gives for this gift, however, is October 10, 1835. In volume 2, p. 137, Ruschenberger describes the gifts given to the King of Siam, including "a set of United States' coins..." Also, Roberts "distributed presents among several of the Siamese officers, consisting of pistols, fowling-pieces, money, &c." Again there is some variance in date, with Ruschenberger saying it was April 14, 1836.

Since you and Ken Brewett virtually "own the franchise" on the 1804 Dollar I thought you might be interested in learning about this (assuming that you have not already found it). If you are interested in writing about it, I'd be interested in being a partner of the project.

In any case, it was interesting to see yet more confirmation of your excellent detective work. Thanks for your consideration of these ideas. I'll look forward to learning your thoughts on this subject.

Best regards,
Joel J. Gray

P.S. Dr. Ruschenberger later became the President of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Joel J. Orosz
4300 Old Field Trail
Kalamazoo, MI 49005

April 10, 1996

Dear Joel:

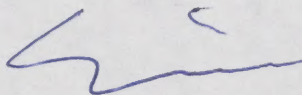
Thank you for writing me. I am always delighted to receive from others their suggestions and thoughts on numismatic problems.

When the Fantastic 1804 was written in 1962 there was no way to feel that all the available facts had been located. Thus the research continued. The Ruschenberger data and other corroboration I published in The Numismatist for March 1970, p. 313 under the title "Keeping Up with the 1804 Dollar History".

My last commentary on the subject was in October 1993. It took over 30 years to figure out the reason for the creation of the 1804 dollar and Eagle. I enclose an offprint of it for your kindness as I presume it could be new to you.

I hope to see you in Denver.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Eric P. Newman', written in a cursive style.

Eric P. Newman

JOEL J. OROSZ
4300 OLD FIELD TRAIL
KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN 49008

April 27, 1996

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Eric:

As usual, you are ahead of me; in the case of the Ruschenberg book, by precisely 26 years and one month! Thanks to your citation, I took the time to read your article in the March, 1970 issue of The Numismatist, which I enjoyed immensely.

Thank you very much for sending me an inscribed offprint of your "Restated Opinion on the Origin of the 1804 Dollar." As you surmised, I had not been aware of it, but I am glad that you brought it to my attention.

In a few months, The Numismatist will be publishing, in two installments, a study I've co-authored with Lance Humphries, a doctoral candidate in art history at the University of Virginia, on the pioneering Baltimore numismatist, Robert Gilman Jr. Thanks to Lance's discovery of a number of primary sources, there will be a great deal of new significant information about his dealings with Adam Eckfeldt and the disposal of his collection.

Again, Eric, thanks for the information.

Sincerely yours,
Joel J. Orosz